AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a system having at least one aggregation module, a method for providing real-time streaming media from a wide area network to [[the]] a plurality of receivers, the method comprising the following acts:

(a)   receiving by at least one aggregation module a request one or more requests for real-time streaming media accessible via a wide area network, each of the one or more requests being received from each one of [[a]] the plurality of receivers, each request comprising [[an]]a unique identifier representative of identifying the particular one of the plurality of receivers making the request, [[and]]

a recitation of the each request comprising access rights associated with the particular one of the plurality of receivers making the request, requesting receiver, the aggregation module comparing the access rights received in each request and associated with the particular one of the plurality of receivers making the request with access and security information stored within a database, and

the aggregation module storing a list [[of]] comprising each of the unique identifiers identifying each of the plurality of receivers from which a request has been received; received for future access;

(b)   after acts (a), the at least one aggregation module

determining whether the number of requests received is greater than a defined maximum number of requests that maintains a connection rate of a shared network at a preferred level, [[and]]

aggregating a plurality of requests into a single request for a single copy of the real-time streaming media, and

sending the single request for a single copy of the real-time streaming media to the wide area network;

(c)   after acts (b), buffering the single copy of the real-time streaming media at the at least one aggregation module;

(d)   using the buffered single copy of the real-time streaming media, delivering the streaming media to the plurality of receivers; and

(e)   the aggregation module tracking the activities of receivers and identifying frequently requested real-time streaming or continuous media.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one aggregation module is remote from at least one of the plurality of receivers.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising selecting a media format for delivering the streaming media to the plurality of receivers.

6.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising delivering the streaming media to each of the plurality of receivers by a multicast broadcast.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising converting the single copy of the streaming media into a standardized media format.

8.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the system comprises a cable system having a plurality of used channels for display broadcast programming to the plurality of receivers and a plurality of unused channels.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising identifying when to deliver the single copy of the real-time streaming media to the plurality of receivers by at least one of the plurality of unused channels.

     10.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium carrying computer-executable instructions for implementing the method of claim 1.

     11 – 54.   (Cancelled)